

Minutes  
Substance Abuse and Child Safety Task Force  
January 14, 2016 – 1:00 P.M.  
Indiana Statehouse – Senate Chamber

**Members Present:**

Mindi Goodpaster, Marion County Commission on Youth; Senator Randy Head, Chair; Suzanne O'Malley, Indiana Prosecuting Attorneys Council; Parri Black, Youth First, Inc.; Marc D. Kniola, Indiana Department of Correction, Division of Youth Services; Katie Hokanson, Indiana State Department of Health; Suzanne F. Clifford, Community Health Network; Cathy J. Boggs, Community Health Network; Cathleen Graham, Indiana Association of Resources & Child Advocacy (IARCA); Lt. Kevin Hobson, Indiana State Police; C.J. Davis, Four County Counseling Center; Sirrilla Blackmon, FSSA - Division of Mental Health and Addiction; Lisa Rich, Indiana Department of Child Services

**Members Absent:** Carey Haley Wong, Child Advocates

**Staff Members Present:** Mike Brown, Indiana State Senate

**Call to Order:** 1:10 P.M.

**Approval of September and November 2015 Minutes:**

- Both September and November approved by voice vote.

Senator Head mentioned the possibility of a new educational outreach committee. Parri Black has agreed to chair this committee. Parri spoke on this issue and mentioned a letter from the Commission and the Governor's Task Force to develop a curriculum. There is a bill in the Senate to turn the Governor's task force into a Commission.

Mindi Goodpaster spoke about teen suicide prevention. The goal today is to gather ideas on what sort of suicide prevention ideas can be brought before the 2017 General Assembly. There is a lot of broad based support for this issue. Senator Breaux has been very involved in this issue and Mindi has agreed to be the point person on this subject. Mindi has created a report on suicide prevention and mentioned the need to focus on things that we can't live without. She used the policy document that was developed by the Suicide Prevention and Substance Use Prevention sub-committee to guide the recommendations. Lisa Brattain was invited today because of her youth suicide background and suicide prevention.

Lisa Brattain lost her son to suicide in 2006 and now runs the Indiana/Ohio chapter of the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention. The Jason Flatt Act (Jason Foundation) required teachers who were seeking licensure undergo a two hour training for suicide prevention. Some teachers have mentioned that that school corporations asked that they just sit at their desk and let the video play as they grade papers. This offers no meaningful suicide prevention pieces. There

is a list on the DOE website where teachers can view videos, but there is a lack of interaction from teachers. Schools are not prepared to respond on the school corporation level. Most schools in Indiana do not have a suicide policy – they do not know how to respond during a crisis or after a crisis. There are some schools in Indiana that have adopted a model policy (intervention, postvention). Many states like Connecticut, Georgia, and Washington require suicide prevention to be in place. Part of the hesitation with teachers is because of liability that could occur. Some feel afraid of parents getting mad if a teacher questions a student. Also, higher education suicide prevention is important – there is very little going on prevention wise at the collegiate level. If people get to the point of asking for help, we need to make sure we have the best care available. There are 13 states that have pending laws requiring health professionals to undergo suicide training.

Mike Dunn, Director of Crisis and Suicide Intervention for Mental Health America, Indianapolis stated that the issue for school training is trying to get everyone trained with all the other training that teachers receive. Teachers are often overwhelmed with training throughout the year.

Mindi stated that the focus recently has been on access to treatment. We have a lack of professionals to deal with the situation and there is a lack of training for these professionals. Also, we must remove the stigma of suicide.

Mindi and Suzanne Clifford created a rough draft discussing the “three legged stool” (training, workforce, and crisis services/behavioral services).

Prevention and training is critical. To ensure buy-in, teachers and schools need to be involved in the development of recommendations that impact schools. It is important to have everyone in the school trained about how to recognize suicide/depression and how to respond when a student needs help. Parri said that having boots on the ground will be next to impossible. It worries Parri if teachers are not watching the online training and merely getting a certificate. We must support the peer-to-peer system since most students will confide in their peers before they will with teachers. Suzanne Clifford suggested involving educators so that they can provide input about what will make the greatest impact. We especially need educators to help us with the prevention and training component. Marc Kniola stated that DOC has suicide prevention because they are scared of being liable for NOT providing it. He believes that online training is not good. Simulated/scenario training is what we need to do. DOC has a card attached to their badges and the card lists what to do if you see a person who is at risk of suicide or is depressed. Maybe we ask schools to create suicide prevention committees. Senator Head said that there may be a great cost for training. If we do not give schools money for training, it will not happen.

Suzanne Clifford mentioned that Community Health Network’s Zero Suicides for Indiana Youth, the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention and a few other organizations are providing some free training. Liability and privacy are things that we need to look at. Having an evidence-based clinical pathway for treatment is critical. Community’s Zero Suicides for Indiana Youth and Butler University are developing some resources to educate students to address the suicide issue. Suzanne asked national experts to suggest legislation in Indiana and her email exploded with suggestions. We need 100 times more behavioral health professionals than we have today to address the current needs in Indiana. It is going to take a while before we get enough

workforce. Suzanne is very concerned with workforce. The need is there and we cannot address it fast enough. Crisis services are much needed in this state. We are making strides in awareness, but we need to expand crisis services as well as longer term treatment capacity. We need to partner with high schools to encourage kids who want to go into some of these professions. We need to start grooming the next generation for these professional behavioral health services.

Cathy Graham stated that there is been a shortage of licensed clinical staff. In a couple areas of the state like Elkhart, they are paying people \$100 just to come in for an interview, and state agencies cannot compete with that. Suzanne O'Malley looked up high school dual credit courses and social work is not on the list of dual credits available – maybe we reach out and change that.

CJ Davis stated that there is a reciprocity issue. For example, if someone has 25 years under their belt and back in graduate school took 300 hours of training, but Indiana requires 500 hours, that person still cannot practice even though that person has 25 years of experience. CJ said that the workforce is not going to get better unless we address this issue now.

Addressing crisis services - Suzanne Clifford stated that both Community Health Network and Eskenazi Health are seeing an increase in crisis services being rendered. Part of the increase appears to be driven by better awareness and suicide prevention programs.

Mindi stated that this is a lot of information to grasp and we need to start thinking about legislation for 2017. She has spoken to students at IUPUI and the Robert H. McKinney School of Law and they are ready to start crunching numbers and comparing other states.

Child protection teams/child facility review team. Katie Hoakinson stated that she was going to take a look at this question.

Senator Head asked about Harry Webb's testimony and whether we want to adopt his thoughts. Some members stated that they support Harry's idea. No consensus was reached and was agreed that this issue should be further evaluated.

Senator Head asked the task force to get recommendations to discuss so we can get a final document ready for the Commission. Please email your legislative ideas to Suzanne and Mindi

**Adjourn:**

- 2:56 P.M.